## INTRODUCTION

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is ultimately intolerant to this victim of a father's king-craft and the rising light of the age. He never is to anything in a hard inhuman sense. He is too wise and kind a man. But as we have just observed, we think it due from him to his audience to explain himself on occasions like these, and not to run the chance of their going away with mistaken impressions." The chief impressions which Hunt himself carried away from this lecture were Carlyle's freedom from prejudice in depicting Puritanism, "which would have made

's world a planet all over brambles," his portraiture of Prynne and Laud, his doing more than justice to Strafford, and his complete silence on Vane and Milton. He notes that the audience seems to increase at every lecture; and quotes characteristic sentences, such as "Both sides mean something that is right in all battles" and "All revolutions are the utterance of some long-felt truth in the minds of men." It is plain that Carlyle is once more traversing well-trodden ground.

The *Examiner* for Sunday, May 19, contains a brief apology for omitting to notice the lectures, and promises to report them next week, when they are over. The promise is well kept, and the report given is one of Hunt's best.

He again apologizes for having missed the greater part of the fourth lecture, but he preserves the title, "The English Restoration, Europe till 1789, Voltaire and Arkwright." His recollections are hazy. The lecturer, for one thing, broke up "the wretched administration in France under Cardinal Du Bois, like so much tinsel paper, or an old bonnet, or rather like an old hair-powder box in which the powder was poisoned, — at once the lightest and guiltiest thing in the world." He defends Voltaire against Carlyle's charge of being "a mere scoffer" by adducing his "sympathies with the pleasurable and the good-natured," and mentions his service to the Calas family. He does not deny that Voltaire